costing over Rs. 25,000/- is sanctioned by the ESI Corporation by taking into account requirements of all State Governments and overall budgetary position of the ESIC. In order to improve resource position of the State Governments in administration of ESI medical care recently, the Corporation has enhanced the ceiling on expenditure on medical care from Rs. 500/- to Rs. 600/- per insured person per annum with effect from 1.4.99. This ceiling is considered necessary for ensuring proper distribution of fund among State/Union Territories and for keeping control on avoidable expenditure. As the ESI Scheme is of contributory nature with limited resources, it is not possible for the ESIC to share actual expenditure on medical care without any ceiling, as suggested by the Government of Maharashtra.

ESI Hospitals at Chinchawad, Bibwewadi and Kolhapur

2379. SHRI V. N. GADGIL: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether the ESI Corporation has constructed ESI hospitals at Chinchawad, Bibwewadi and Kolhapur without intimation to Government of Maharashtra causing great financial burden on Government of Maharashtra;

(b) whether ESI Corporation will bear the recurring expenditure on these 3 hospitals for three years; and

(c) if not, the reasons for the same?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR (DR. SATYANARAYAN JATIYA): (a) and (b) No, Sir.

(c) As per the existing policy, expenditure on the ESI hospitals/ dispensaries constructed in old implemented areas is required to be shared between the ESI Corporation and the concerned State Government in the approved ratio of 7:1.

P.F. of Workers

2380. SHRI DAWA LAMA: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) the number of Tea Gardens in Darjeeling, Dooars and Terai, who are not depositing the P.F. accumulations of workers for years;

(b) whether it is also a fact that Tea Trading Corporations of India (T.T.C.I.) is also a defaulter; and

(c) the actions proposed by Government to safeguard the interests of labours?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR (DR. SATYANARAYAN JATIYA): (a) 23

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) Necessary legal and penal action as provided under the EPF & MP Act, 1952 and, where necessary also under Section 406/409 of the I.P.C. has been initiated to recover the PF dues outstanding against the defaulting establishments.

Physical and Mental Training to workers

2381. SHRI SANTOSH BAGRODIA: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have any plan to train workers physically and mentally so that the efficiency of the workers could increase to the level of workers as in developed countries;

(b) if yes, what are these steps; and

(c) if not, why not and how do Government plan to sustain these workers who are becoming more and more redundant in PSUs and also in Private Industries?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR (DR. SATYANARAYAN JATIYA): (a) and (b) A number of Vocational Training Schemes are in operation in the specialised institutes under the direct control of DGE&T in the Ministry of Labour and in some selected I.T.Is administered by the respective State Governments. These schemes *inter-alia* include advanced and hi-tech training programmes covering a variety of skill areas for upgrading and updating the knowledge and skills of serving industrial workers. Tailor-made course suiting to the specific requirements of industrial establishments are also offered.

In addition, Small Industries Development Organisation in the Ministry of Industry is organising Skill Development Programmes to improve the skills of workers engaged in the Small Scale Industries